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the parents united by affection, and the children growing into comradeship rather than ruled by paternal authority. The treatment of each and all of these topics is suggestive, fair-minded, tolerant, and hopeful. The author acknowledges his obligations to three of his former teachers, Professors Small, Henderson, and Willcox, "directly or indirectly for much of the substance of the book."

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MONTAIGNE AND SHAKESPEARE AND OTHER ESSAYS ON COGNATE QUESTIONS. By John M. Robertson, M.P. London: A. & C. Black, 1909. Pp. vii, 358.

The object of this collection of essays is not merely to prove that Shakespeare borrowed extensively from Montaigne, but that the influence of Montaigne is "of that high sort in which he that takes becomes co-thinker with him that gives." The author is overconcerned perhaps to find analogies for commonplaces, such as the idea of "the country from whose bourne no traveller returns," and lays too little stress to the tags and methods of expression which are common to contemporary writers, though he frankly anticipates such a criticism in his introduction. However, Mr. Robertson has shown conclusively that sentiments and expressions, which posterity must regard as platitudes, have that elusive simplicity which requires a genius for their first conception. The very fact that they have passed into the common stock of human thought and speech is proof positive of their inspiration. Mr. Robertson's essays are, above all things, reasonable, and he declares himself emancipated from the abstract æsthetics of such writers as Coleridge, Schlegel, Knight, and even Swinburne, being content to prove that, after all, Shakespeare's materials belonged to the sixteenth and the preceding centuries. Poets should be judged, not by abstract æsthetic standards, the success of which reflects credit on the critic himself rather than on the poet, but by the measure of their ability to deal with the materials nearest at hand. Mr. Robertson, by implication rather than by definite statements, has pressed forward this view throughout the book, and has given the study of Shakespeare a new interest, delivering it from a class of critics whose methods recall the schoolmen. He is certainly no idolater,

and the ordinary reader who prefers sound reasoning to the esoteric sententiousness of the other school, will find that this book creates a new Shakespeare, or rather, resurrects him from the grave which his critics have dug.

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THE INTERMEDIATE SEX. A STUDY OF SOME TRANSITIONAL TYPES OF MEN AND WOMEN. By Edward Carpenter. Second Edition. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd., 1909. Pp. 175.

There is in nature a great variety in the degree of sex differentiation,—hermaphroditism is common, and there are well-known cases in which an animal changes its sex in the course of its life. There is also great variety in the degree of dimorphism between males and females, from nil in sea-urchins to a maximum in the contrast between peacock and peahen, or between stag and hind. And, again, there are cases where perfect maleness is normally associated with the expression of characters which are usually regarded as feminine, and *vice versa*. Thus the male of the red-necked Phalarope is a perfect male, but very feminine in many ways; his mate is a perfect female, but very masculine in many ways. These facts are very suggestive and lend support to the view which is prominent in the book before us that it is not easy to find a sharp cleavage between all that is masculine, on the one side, and all that is feminine, on the other. Mr. Carpenter has made a study of some transitional types of men and women. He shows that there are many different degrees of feminine men and masculine women, and that a strong attraction between those of similar sex is not inconsistent with a high degree of intelligence and fine feeling. It does not necessarily imply sensual excess, and though it may sink to bestiality, so may a respectable marriage. A strong fondness between those of similar sex is a variety of the normal sex-attraction, but it is not necessarily morbid. Nature has given a verdict of approval on the normal sex-attraction, which is responsible for much misery as well as of the highest happiness, but it is not to be expected that the race has ceased evolving in this respect, and it is a great assumption that the intermediate types discussed in this book are wholly undesir-